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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

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ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

JEN DAULBY, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

June 12, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

The House of Representatives needs to get back to work. As an overwhelming majority of the country, including Washington, DC, has moved into phased physical re-openings, the House's operating status has not changed. The numerous Congressional district offices that have reopened throughout the country have done so with little to no support because of failure to provide support in real time. Furthermore, a transparent plan with clear guidance, timelines, and benchmarks to support a transition to phased reopening has not been made available to offices. This has resulted in unnecessary confusion and led many to conclude that House Democrats have no plans of physically showing up to do their job for the remainder of this Congress.

The House should have led by example and been a model for how to safely physically re-open and conduct business, similar to what the United States Senate had been able to do. It would have sent a strong message to the American people that the People's House was back working on their behalf. At a time that when our country is facing so many important challenges that demand the attention of this deliberative body, we must be better prepared to support that work. The last two and a half months have been wasted with minimal progress toward executing on the types of common-sense modifications every agency, company and organization across this country is implementing.

The House must now play catch up to establish specific occupancy recommendations; retrofit and reconfigure spaces; support implementing health monitoring programs, including some level of testing; establish service level agreements for House support offerings and making common sense adjustments, like the acceptance of digital signatures for routine transactions; provide re-opening guidelines for House facilities, such as daycare, fitness centers, and others; adjust business processes for events and visitors; and provide adequate support for committee activities.

In the limited time remaining in the 116th Congress, there are many important issues that Congress needs to address. We should not be wasting time by making it more difficult for Members to do their jobs and should catch up with the rest of the country in a safe physical

reopening of the House of Representatives. We therefore ask that you immediately expedite the roll-out of support assistance to offices, making it possible for staff and members to work in a safe environment.

Sincerely,



Rodney Davis
Ranking Member



Mark Walker
Representative



Barry Loudermilk
Representative